

**Woodlake
Lutheran Church**

7525 Oliver Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
(612) 866-8449
www.woodlakechurch.org

Pastor Charlie Plaster
Pastor Joanne Sorenson

*Woodlake Lutheran Church is a
congregation of the ELCA.*

Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning
10:00am in the Sanctuary

Saturday Evening
5:00pm in the Chapel

Wednesday Morning Matins
8:00am in the Chapel

Church Office Hours

Monday.....9am – 12pm
Tuesday.....9am – 4pm
Wednesday.....9am – 4pm
Thursday.....9am – 4pm
Friday.....9am – 12pm
Saturday.....Closed
Sunday..... Before and after worship

Articles for December's issue of The
Messenger are due to
office@woodlakechurch.org
no later than November 15.



November 2017

Messenger

Upcoming Event Highlights

Special Meeting after Worship – Sunday, October 29th

Good news from the Call Committee! A candidate for the position of Senior Pastor has been chosen by the Call Committee, and there will be a special meeting after 10am worship **on Sunday, October 29 – Reformation Sunday!** – for members to vote whether to issue a formal call to this candidate. All members should plan to attend!

Homebound Minister Continuing Education

Saturday, November 4, 10am in the Fireside Room

Homebound Ministers are invited to a continuing education session on Saturday, November 4 from 10:00 - 11:30 AM in Woodlake's Fireside Room. The topic will be "Sacred Listening" presented by Pastor Joanne. There will also be time to share your homebound experience, ask questions, and discuss any problems or issues that may have arisen, plus there will be time to socialize with each other.

Fall Craft Sale – Saturday, November 11th from 9am – 3pm

We invite all members to support the craft sale coming up on November 11! Here are some ways that you can participate:

Attend the event yourself! Look for great homemade gifts for your family and friends. Eat lunch and enjoy the famous sloppy joes or tuna sandwich, along with a dessert.

Invite friends, family or coworkers to attend. Post a message on your Facebook page, send an email invitation, or extend a personal invite

Donate to Granny's Attic. Drop off items to sell at the church. Profits are shared with VEAP, Loaves and Fishes, and Families Moving Forward.

Donate baked goods. Sign up to donate homemade treats for the bake sale.

Donate books. Drop off your soft or hard cover book

Annual Meeting – Sunday, November 19th following worship

Members should plan to attend our yearly annual meeting, in which we vote for the coming year's Board members and approve our budget.

Collaborative Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 22nd, 7pm at Oak Grove Lutheran Church

Mark your calendars for our next Christ In Community Collaboration worship service on Thanksgiving Eve, November 22 at 7:00pm at Oak Grove Lutheran Church (7045 Lyndale Avenue South, Richfield).

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

Psalm 133 reads: “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!” One thing that makes something precious is that it is uncommon. Unity is something sought by many, but not often achieved. It was with some trepidation that I accepted a position on the Leadership Board last November, primarily to lead the call process as we sought a new pastor. It took time to gather information from the congregation, discuss and reflect upon it, write the Ministry Site Profile, and then to consider the candidates presented to us. We have now reached the point where we have recommended a candidate for approval to the congregation.

The process was not always easy, but we disagreed without being disagreeable, worked diligently upon our assigned tasks, and forged a consensus on many issues. I enjoyed it much more than I thought I would. I want to thank my fellow board members for their steadfast efforts, and for enduring my off-beat sense of humor.

Ecclesiastes is one of my favorite books of the Bible. In the Bible Study Helps of my Confirmation Bible, it says that this book “contains the writings of a wealthy Jew who suffered from the sorrows and disappointments of life and now tries to discover the true value and meaning of life through God.” Jesus would have been familiar with this text as he was with the Psalms. In Ecclesiastes 9:10 we read: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol [the home of the dead], to which you are going.”

I hope we will be able to proceed forward as a congregation, and do so with a will.

- *Scott Dahlquist, Call Committee Chair*

Pastor’s Corner

“WHAT A MONTH FOR WORSHIP”

What a month for worship. November has it all:

#1. On the weekend of November 4-5, we celebrate All Saints Sunday. It is a day with many themes. We remember loved ones who have died. We are reminded of our own mortality. Above all we are reminded of the promises of resurrection and life eternal that we have through faith in Jesus Christ.

#2. On the weekend of November 18-19 we focus on thanksgiving. It is a time to look back and reflect upon the many ways that God has blessed us this past year. It is a time to say “Thank You.” It is also an opportunity to share with those in need.

#3. On Wednesday, November, 22, at 7pm we will gather at Oak Grove Lutheran Church for another collaborative worship event. There will be a massed choir with members from Oak Grove, House of Prayer, and Woodlake. There will be a time of fellowship following worship. Collaborative worship is something that I think all of us have come to appreciate. Hope you can be there that night.

All of these special times can, of course, be celebrated alone. But we are better in all sorts of ways when we celebrate these special times of faith in worship with other Christians. I hope you will join us.

*See you at worship,
Pastor Charlie*

From the Records

Funeral Services

Thank you for keeping these families in your prayers.

Morris Hoyum (2/7/1922 – 9/6/2017), service held at Woodlake on September 11, 2017

Barbara Winsor (5/17/1943 – 9/14/2017), service held at Woodlake on September 23, 2017

Membership Transfers

Richard and Elaine Kolkmann to Community of the Cross Lutheran Church, Bloomington

Barbara Bentzen to Trinity Lutheran Church, Brainerd

William, Sarah, Cora, and Harrison Magnuson to Mount Oliver Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Baptisms

Harry Ludwig Nehls V, child of Harry Ludwig Nehls IV and Kathleen Marie Nehls, on October 15

Worship and Music Notes

Faith. Love. Hope.
“Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophecy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know you in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:8-13)

We have only two months until the end of 2017. Time flies. I remember I writing articles about similar topics around the same season last year. Especially as a music director, this is true after September: 500th anniversary of Reformation in October, Thanksgiving in November, and Advent and Christmas in December. Rehearsals and services every Wednesday, services every Saturday and Sunday ... Then, one week and one month flies. Every year, the same holidays return over and over, the same except for the year. But, we can't go back to the past.

As time goes by, people get busier and the amount of time amount dedicated to meet and talk face to face decreases. Sometimes, we don't have time to communicate with our families. Time just is rolling on with busy schedules. I used to put off spending time with my family and traveling as a last priority. But time doesn't wait for me. I learned this simple and practical message too late from my mother after she passed away.

Nowadays, I feel like to get older is to learn the depth of each word.

Faith. Hope. Love.

Throughout this coming season, I want to share the weight of these three words with people through our music ministry. I'm pretty sure we can learn the meaning of the Word through each other. There will be mistakes, failures, and frustrations. But, we will not be afraid of it because we can learn it from these simple words. Faith, Hope, Love.

Life is beautiful. Life is good. But our life is too short to do all that we plan. This is the time we should try and share the love that God gives us. Imagine the dream that you really want to achieve and share the joy with your neighbors.

HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

Mission and Outreach

Changes at VEAP

Through VEAP's strategic planning process, they have learned that the Holiday Toy distribution significantly disrupts VEAP's capacity to meet the basic food and housing needs of clients at a time when those needs are highest. **Therefore, effective immediately, VEAP is discontinuing the Holiday Toy program and refocusing efforts to meet the clients' stated needs. This means VEAP is no longer requesting donations of toys and gift cards for the holidays.** VEAP staff is actively referring clients to other toy program resources in the community. Even though this program is ending, please know we appreciate the support you have provided over the years.



To meet the needs of the community, VEAP needs you now more than ever. We will be having a major food and fund drive over the months of November and December starting immediately. VEAP's goal is to provide more frequent access to the food pantry over the holiday period. When parents are able to save their food budget dollars, they can use those dollars where they need them most. Imagine how a parent feels when they are able to purchase a toy they know their child wants.

We ask that you continue to invest in VEAP's mission and programs. Here's how:

Give Food. Next time you are shopping for food items, pick up a couple items that are your favorites. They like to get a variety of items and brands. Just place them in the grocery carts in the corridor and we will deliver them to VEAP.

Give Funds. Donate to VEAP. Did you know for every \$1 donated, VEAP is able to purchase \$10 worth of food? It's easy to give – just use one of your special envelopes and mark it for VEAP.

Come Volunteer. If you have a group that would like to help from work or church, friends or family, come volunteer as a group. Did you know VEAP has a group volunteer mission experience called Donate & Do? It's easy, fun and rewarding! Go to www.veap.org to register your group and pick a date and time!

If you have any questions, please send them to marleneevenson@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support!

Marlene Evenson, VEAP liaison

Small Group and Circle News

Circles

Circles meet once a month and are times for women of all ages to have fellowship, devotions, and Bible study. November *Gather* magazine with Bible Studies are now available in the church office (one for each circle).

Esther Circle: November 7 (1st Tuesday), 11:30am at the Yorke Room of 7500 York

Faith Circle: November 7 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, at Alice O's home

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: November 8 (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Lydia Circle: November 14 (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Sunday Morning Circle: November 19th (date changed due to Thanksgiving), 8:45am in the Heritage Room

Matins Speakers

Join us for the Matins Morning Prayer service at 8am, every Wednesday in the chapel, and stay for fellowship and coffee at 8:30, with a speaker at 9am.

Nov 1: Scott Dahlquist, "My Week with the Rock of Ages Lighthouse Preservation Society"

Nov 8: Kevin Dahlman, "Let Me Tell You About the Birds and the Bees"

Nov 15: Minnesota Environmental Fund

Nov 22: R. Renick, "Give a Goat"

Nov 29: Bible Study

SALT November Event – Feed My Starving Children

Saturday, November 25, 9am – 11am

In November, the Socializing Adult Lutherans Together (SALT) will join forces with Hope Lutheran Church for a joint packing event at Feed My Starving Children (www.fmssc.org). According to their website: Feed My Starving Children® is a Christian non-profit committed to feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, and we ship these meals to distribution partners around the world.

The event will be at the Eagan site, [990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136](#), from 9-11 AM on Saturday, November 25th. Sign up in the church office, and we will determine as a group whether we will go directly to the packing site or meet at Woodlake and carpool. If there is interest, going out for lunch afterwards would be a great finish for this event.

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Our book for November / December is *Hana's Suitcase* by Karen Levine. Please check announcements for date. Join at any time!

Timber Lodge Fundraiser – The rest of the year, and into 2018

As you start setting up your 2018 calendars and planners, go ahead and add Woodlake's Timber Lodge dates! All you have to do for this easy fundraiser is head out to Timber Lodge Restaurant on our specified day of the month, have a great meal, tell your server that you're a friend of Woodlake, and they'll donate 15% of the ticket price back to us.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 2017

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 2017

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11th, 2018

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12th, 2018

TUESDAY, MARCH 13th, 2018

THURSDAY, APRIL 12th, 2018

TUESDAY, MAY 8th, 2018

TUESDAY, JUNE 12th, 2018

THURSDAY, JULY 12th, 2018

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14th, 2018

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th, 2018

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9th, 2018

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 2018

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 2018

Collaboration and Community Events

Men's Fellowship Group Gathering – Thursday, November 9th, 9am in House of Prayer Parish Hall (7625 Chicago Avenue South)

All Sisters and Brothers are invited to hear Mr. Ernest Lindstrom, attorney and HOP members, speak about elder law and legal conditions that impact seniors. Please join us for fellowship, devotions, topic, chit-chat, and refreshments! For more information, please call Noel Sagness at 612-866-0833. Please note that our sisters are invited to this month's meeting! Sign up in Woodlake's church office.



Poinsettia

Order Form

Poinsettias are used to decorate the church for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Make a purchase in honor or in memory of a loved one, or to mark a special occasion. Your dedication will be printed in holiday worship folders.

Plants (in 7" pots) have 8-10 blooms

Price is \$15.00 each

**To ensure you receive a poinsettia, order is due to office
no later than 12:00 Noon on Sunday, December 3**

Check enclosed for \$ _____ (payable to Woodlake)

Ordered by _____
(Name as it should appear in bulletin)

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

(Other): _____

**Plants should be picked up following 10 a.m. Christmas Day service.
Plants not picked by Sunday, December 31 will be made available to anyone who
wants one.**



**WOODLAKE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**ARTS &
CRAFT SALE**

**2nd Sat. of November
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
76th & Newton/Richfield**